

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-37 (Canceled).

38. (New) A method for providing access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system, the method comprising:

receiving, by a server, metadata for a course catalog from the external system;
presenting the course catalog to a user of the server, wherein the course catalog describes courses hosted by the external system;
receiving, from the user, a selection of at least one course from the courses hosted by the external system; and
communicating with the external system to provide access to the at least one selected course to the user.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a register command that registers the user with the external system.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting an enroll command that enrolls the user in the at least one selected course.

41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a launch command that launches the at least one selected course.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a track command that tracks the user activity through the at least one selected course.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising receiving a response to the track command, wherein the response comprises at least one of a percentage of material from the at least one selected course that has been viewed by the user, a test score associated with material from the at least one selected course, and an amount of time spent viewing material in the at least one electronic course by the user.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein content of the courses hosted by the external system are stored in servers maintained by the external system.

45. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein content of the at least one selected course is displayed in response to the launch command.

46. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting commands from the server to the external system and receiving replies from the external system to the server.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the commands are transmitted in accordance with simple object access protocol.

48. (New) A machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions for providing access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system, the instructions causing a machine to execute a method comprising the steps of:

- receiving, by a server, metadata for a course catalog from the external system;
- presenting the course catalog to a user of the server, wherein the course catalog describes courses hosted by the external system;
- receiving, from a user, a selection of at least one course from the courses hosted by the external system; and
- communicating with the external system to provide access to the at least one selected course to the user.

49. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a register command that registers the user with the external system.

50. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting an enroll command that enrolls the user in the at least one selected course.

51. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a launch command that launches the at least one selected course.

52. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a track command that tracks the user activity through the at least one selected course.

53. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 52, the method further comprises receiving a response to the track command, wherein the response comprises at least one of a percentage of material from the at least one selected course that has been viewed by the user, a test score associated with material from the at least one selected course, and an amount of time spent viewing material in the at least one electronic course by the user.

54. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein content of the courses hosted by the external system are stored in servers maintained by the external system.

55. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein content of the at least one selected course is displayed in response to the launch command.

56. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 48, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting commands from the server to the external system and receiving replies from the external system to the server.

57. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 56, wherein the commands are transmitted in accordance with simple object access protocol.

58. (New) A system comprising at least one server for providing access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system, the at least one server comprising at least one processor to execute a method comprising the steps of:

- receiving, by a server, metadata for a course catalog from the external system;
- presenting the course catalog to a user of the server, wherein the course catalog describes courses hosted by the external system;
- receiving, from a user, a selection of at least one course from the courses hosted by the external system; and
- communicating with the external system to provide access to the at least one selected course to the user.

59. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a register command that registers the user with the external system.

60. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting an enroll command that enrolls the user in the at least one selected course.

61. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a launch command that launches the at least one selected course.

62. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting a track command that tracks the user activity through the at least one selected course.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the method further comprises receiving a response to the track command, wherein the response comprises at least one of a percentage of material from the at least one selected course that has been viewed by the user, a test score associated with material from the at least one selected course, and an amount of time spent viewing material in the at least one electronic course by the user.

64. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein content of the courses hosted by the external system are stored in servers maintained by the external system.

65. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein content of the at least one selected course is displayed in response to the launch command.

66. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the step of communicating comprises transmitting commands from the server to the external system and receiving replies from the external system to the server.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the commands are transmitted in accordance with simple object access protocol.

68. (New) An electronic learning system (ELS) that provides access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system that is not part of the ELS, the ELS comprising:

- a front end that exchanges communications with the external system to obtain access to the electronic course;

- a learning portal that runs software to view the electronic course; and

- a back end that stores information that relates to the electronic course, wherein the stored information comprises metadata that comprises a course catalog for the electronic course, and the course catalog describes courses hosted by the external system and includes a description of material in the courses, and further wherein the back end obtains the metadata from the external system.

69. (New) An electronic learning system (ELS) for providing access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system, the ELS comprising:

a front end to mediate access to an electronic course that is hosted by an external system that is not part of the ELS, the front end interacting with the external system through a series of commands that contain identification and control information for use by the external system, the front end receiving responses to the commands including a response relating to progress through the electronic course; and

a back end to maintain information on the ELS about the electronic course, wherein the stored information comprises metadata that comprises a course catalog for the electronic course and the course catalog describes courses hosted by the external system and includes a description of material in the courses, and further wherein the back end obtains the metadata from the external system.

70. (New) A network for providing access to an electronic course, the network comprising:

a first electronic learning system (ELS) that hosts an electronic course; and
a second ELS that:

presents a course catalog to a user of the second ELS, wherein the course catalog describes courses hosted by the first ELS;

receives a selection of at least one course from the courses hosted by the first ELS by the user; and

accesses the at least one course over a network via a series of commands and responses, the series of commands and responses comprising:

a register command transmitted from the second ELS to the first ELS to register with the first ELS;

an enroll command transmitted from the second ELS to the first ELS to enroll in the at least one course;

a launch command transmitted from the second ELS to the first ELS to launch the at least one course; and

a response to the launch command, the response being transmitted from the first ELS to the second ELS following receipt of the launch command by the first ELS, the response making accessible material from the at least one course to the second ELS.